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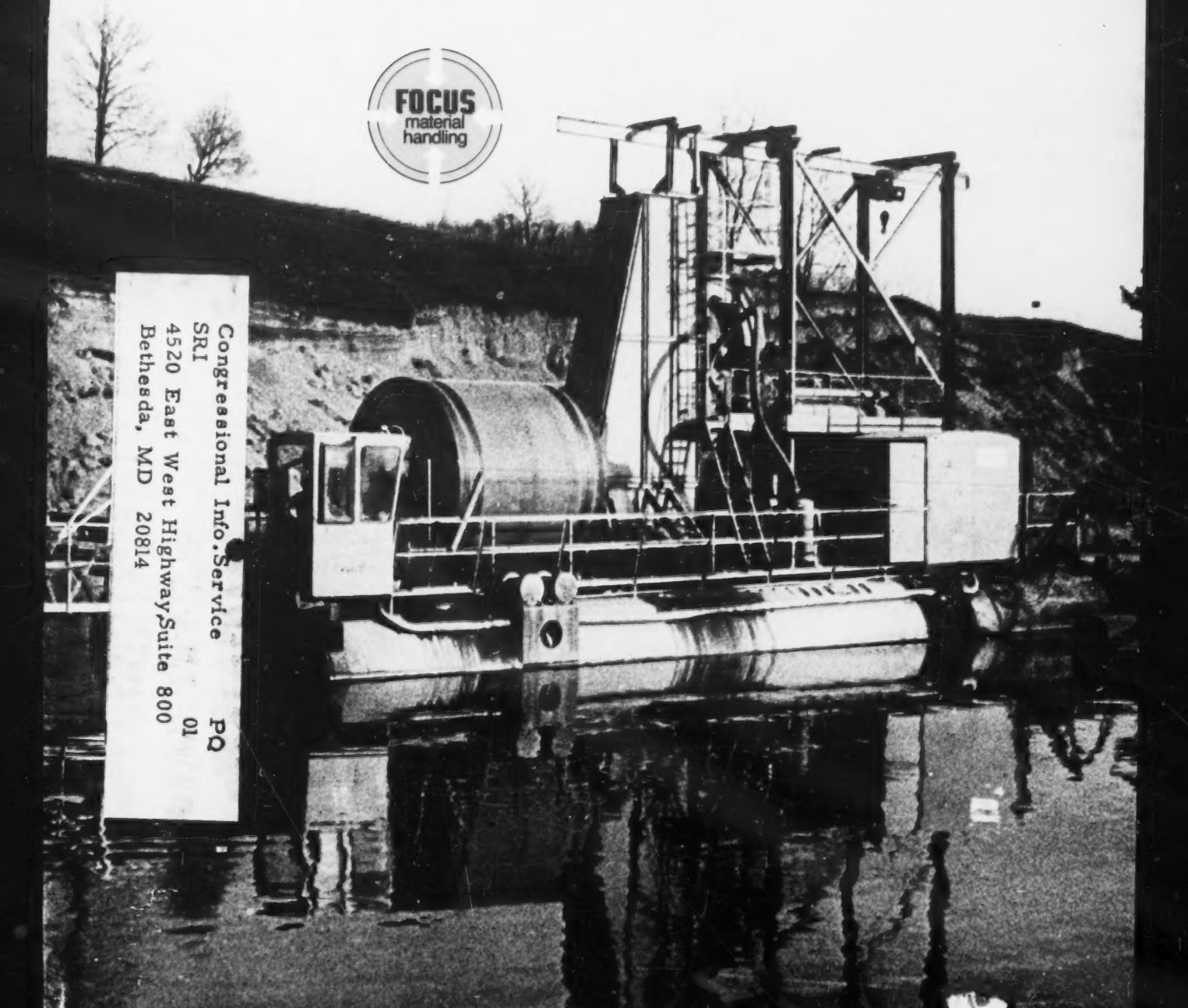

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The first airlift dredge of its type in North America, built by Pressair of West Germany and operated by Morgan Sand & Gravel, Brighton, Mich. Story on page 28.

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Reidel Int'l completes s&g purchase from Lone Star

Riedel International and Lone Star Industries, Inc., have completed a transaction in which Riedel purchased two ready-mix concrete plants near Seattle, Wash., for more than $15 million cash. Earlier the two companies had reached an agreement in principle that involved more than $19 million, but Riedel exercised its option not to purchase certain property.

Riedel intends to rename the facilities Pioneer Construction Materials Co., a reference to the early 1900s, when the operations were family-owned for more than 60 years under the name Pioneer Sand and Gravel. Vern Scott, president of Riedel Construction Materials Co., will have overall responsibility of the operations; James A. Repman will manage the facilities.

Lone Star to sell two cement plants

Lone Star Industries, Inc., has agreed in principle to sell two of its cement plants. St. Lawrence Cement, Inc., Mount Royal, Quebec, will purchase the Catskill, N.Y., plant for more than $30 million cash. The Canadian firm is a producer of cement and related products with a U.S. subsidiary, Independent Cement Corp., Albany, N.Y.

In the second transaction, Lone Star has agreed in principle to sell its Seattle, Wash., cement plant to Ash Grove Cement Co. That purchase is subject to execution of a definitive agreement, receipt of regulatory approvals, and other usual conditions. No purchase price was announced. Ash Grove's wholly owned subsidiary, Oregon Portland Cement Co., will operate the facility.

Lone Star previously had announced that the Seattle plant would be purchased by a partnership led by Australian producer Adelaide Brighton Cement Holdings, Ltd.

Moore McCormack completes cement plant purchase

Moore McCormack Cement has completed the purchase of a Knoxville, Tenn., cement plant and related terminals from Ideal Basic Industries, Inc., for $50 million in cash plus the value of inventory. The plant has a design capacity of 550,000 tpy and its dry process precalciner kiln system is coal-fired. Included in the purchase are cement terminals located in Castle Hayne and Statesville, N.C., Gray Station, Tenn., and a cement bulk transfer facility in Wilmington, N.C.

Marietta's Industrial Sand Division moves offices

Martin Marietta's Industrial Sand Division has relocated its headquarters from surburban Chicago to Wedron, Ill., in LaSalle County. The new offices are located at the division's 1,050-acre silica sand facility, a hydraulic mining operation recently modernized and expanded. The division has reserves equivalent to 125 years at current capacity and produces 17 grades of foundry, glass, ceramic, hydraulic fracturing, and specialty sands.

Unimin expanding its North Carolina sand operation

Unimin Corporation has announced the expansion of its silica sand operation in Marston, N.C. The firm will invest $6 million in a new silica flour facility that will include the latest technology available for the grinding of silica sand. The plant, planned to be on stream in 12-15 months, will provide multiple grades of silica flour for the chemical and fiberglass markets. The plant's design includes storage capacities combined with a separate rail siding and load-out for trucks.

Third quarter housing shows modest gain— F. W. Dodge

Construction of new housing units in the third quarter of 1983 showed a modest gain over the year's second quarter and a large margin over the depressed volume of 1982 building when mortgage rates still were close to their peak, according to F. W. Dodge Division of McGraw-Hill Information Systems Co.

Third quarter housing starts, totaling 495,386 units, were 67% stronger than in the same period of 1982. After adjustment for seasonality, however, the latest 3 months showed only a modest 6% advance over 1983's second quarter

Comparison of 1983/1982 Construction Contract Values*

	11 Mos. 1983 (000,000)	11 Mos. 1982 (000,000)	Cumulative Percent Change
Nonresidential building	$ 57,214.1	$ 55,662.2	+ 3
Residential building	86,811.0	53,804.5	+61
Nonbuilding construction	34,517.9	32,659.3	+ 6
Total construction	$178,543.0	$142,126.0	+26

Dodge Index
(1977 = 100, Seasonally Adjusted)
September 1983 ..... 143 October 1983 ..... 139 November 1983 145

**Based on statistics compiled by F. W. Dodge Div., McGraw-Hill Information Systems*